

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A cutting block for resecting bone comprising:

a body having a first generally planar bone contacting surface and a second surface spaced from said bone contacting surface along an axis perpendicular to said generally planar bone contacting surface;

said body having a perimeter surface extending between said first and second surfaces, at least a medial and a lateral said perimeter surface of the body at least partially curved along a plane parallel to the planar bone contacting surface and along a plane perpendicular to the bone contacting surface with respect to said axis in both a direction generally perpendicular thereto and generally parallel thereto.

2. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 1 wherein said perimeter surface is polished.

3. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 1 wherein said body is to be used to resect a distal femur and includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade.

4. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 3 wherein the body includes slots for forming an anterior cut, a posterior cut, an anterior chamfer cut and posterior chamfer cut in the distal femur.

5. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 4 wherein the body is made of a plurality of pieces connected by pins and spaced to form said slots.

6. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 5 wherein said pins are located adjacent ends of said

slots used for making the anterior and anterior chamfer cuts and located adjacent a center of said slots used for making the posterior and posterior chamfer cuts.

7. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 3 wherein said slots for forming said posterior cuts intersect said perimeter surface to form an open end.

8. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 7 further including a pin extending from a bottom to a top surface of said slot, said pin adjacent a central position of said slot open end and having a rounded outer surface for engaging the saw blade.

9. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 3 wherein said slot includes an inwardly facing end surface extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body.

10. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 9 wherein an end surface of said slot has an arcuate portion extending towards a center of said body for engaging an edge of the saw blade.

11. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 10 wherein said end surface is formed by a cylindrical pin.

12. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 11 wherein said perimeter surface is polished.

13. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 1 wherein said cutting block perimeter surface is shaped to conform to a distal femur.

14. (original) The cutting block as set forth in claim 1 wherein said cutting block is less than or equal to a medial-lateral dimension of an outer perimeter of the distal femur and a height of said cutting block is less than or equal to an anterior-posterior dimension of the distal femur.

15. (currently amended) A cutting block for resecting a distal femur comprising:

a body having a width in a medial-lateral direction and height in an anterior-posterior direction and a proximally facing bone contacting surface and a distally facing surface opposite said proximal surface, said proximal and distal surfaces spaced along a central axis, said body having a medial and lateral perimeters extending between said proximal and distal surfaces wherein at least part of each of said perimeters is at a greater distance from said central axis than said medial and lateral perimeter at said proximal and distal surfaces and wherein the body has a width less than or equal to the medial-lateral dimension of the femur throughout the height of the block and a height less than or equal to the anterior-posterior dimension of the femur throughout the width of the block wherein said body includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade used to make an anterior cut, a posterior cut, an anterior chamfer cut and a posterior chamfer cut on the distal femur, wherein said slots for said anterior cuts include an inwardly facing end surface extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body, wherein said end surface has an arcuate portion extending towards a center of said body for

engaging an edge of the saw blade, and wherein said end surface is formed by a cylindrical pin.

16. The cutting block as set forth in claim 15 wherein said perimeter surface is polished.

Claims 17 and 18 (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) The cutting block as set forth in claim 15~~18~~ wherein said slots for said posterior and posterior chamfer cuts intersect said perimeter surface to form an open end.

20. (currently amended) The cutting block as set forth in claim 19 wherein the slot for the posterior cut further includesing at least one pin extending from a bottom to a top surface of said slot, said pin adjacent a center of said slot and having a rounded outer surface for engaging the saw blade.

Claims 21-24 (cancelled)

25. (new) A cutting block for resecting bone comprising:

a body having a first generally planar bone contacting surface and a second surface spaced from said bone contacting surface along an axis perpendicular to said generally planar bone contacting surface;

said body having a perimeter surface extending between said first and second surfaces, said perimeter surface at least partially curved with respect to said axis in both a direction generally perpendicular thereto and generally parallel thereto wherein the body is made of a plurality of pieces connected by pins and spaced to form said slots.

26. (new) The cutting block as set forth in claim 25 wherein said pins are located adjacent ends of said slots used for making the anterior and anterior chamfer cuts and located adjacent a center of said slots used for making the posterior and posterior chamfer cuts.

27. (new) A cutting block for resecting bone comprising:

a body having a first generally planar bone contacting surface and a second surface spaced from said bone contacting surface along an axis perpendicular to said generally planar bone contacting surface;

said body having a perimeter surface extending between said first and second surfaces, said perimeter surface at least partially curved with respect to said axis in both a direction generally perpendicular thereto and generally parallel thereto, wherein said body is to be used to resect a distal femur and includes a plurality of slots for guiding a saw blade, wherein said slot includes an inwardly facing end surface extending from a bottom slot surface to a top slot surface at a location adjacent said perimeter surface of said body, an end surface of said slot has an arcuate portion extending towards a center of said body for engaging an edge of the saw blade, and wherein said end surface is formed by a cylindrical pin.